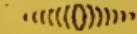


TWO
PENCE

POPULAR
HISTORIES
ENGLISH
HISTORY.

BY

Edw. & Emma Mathews.



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CATECHISM
OF
ENGLISH HISTORY,
ADAPTED FOR THE
SCHOOLROOM & NURSERY.

BY EDWARD AND EMMA MATHEWS.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

[ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.]

LONDON :
HOULSTON AND WRIGHT ;
AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

MDCCLXVIII.

P R E F A C E .

In compiling this Catechism, the Editors have kept in view the progress of the nation in civilization, commerce, and the arts of peace, rather than the histories of battles and their heroes; having a strong conviction that such details tend to vitiate the minds of youth, and give false ideas of right and wrong. This evil exists in almost all our popular school-books.

The Editors would suggest that maps and pictures be referred to in connexion with this and their other Catechisms, as the impression made on the young mind by such means is vivid and lasting.

Bristol.

E. & E. M.

[TWENTY-EIGHTH THOUSAND.]

CATECHISM OF ENGLISH HISTORY.

CHAPTER I.

THE ANCIENT BRITONS.

QUESTION. Can you tell me what England was called in ancient times?

ANSWER. Albion or Britannia; and the people were called Britons.

Q. How far back does the History of England reach?

A. Very little is known about this country or its inhabitants until the time of Julius Cæsar.

Q. Who was Julius Cæsar?

A. A Roman general who came to these shores one thousand nine hundred years ago, and attempted to conquer the inhabitants, but was not very successful, and so returned to Gaul (now called France).

Q. What was the condition of the Britons when Julius Cæsar came?

A. They were divided into numerous tribes, each having a leader or chief, like the Indians of North America, and were constantly at war with each other.

Q. Mention some other particulars about them?

A. Their food was fruits, roots, nuts, and acorns; also the flesh of animals which they hunted in the forests; they painted their bodies, and wore no clothes but skins; they had no furniture but blocks of wood, and their houses were little round huts, made of sticks or rushes plastered with clay. Their weapons were bows and arrows, clubs, and spears.

Q. Who were the Druids?

A. They were the Priests of Britain, and the most learned men of those times. They made laws, held courts of justice, made herb medicines for the sick, and worked in metals. Those of them who played music and made verses were called bards. Their usual dress was a long white robe.

Q. What was their religion?

A. They were idolaters and worshipped trees, rivers, fire, and other objects; they formed temples of large stones arranged in circles. The remains of one is still to be seen on Salisbury plain, and another at Stanton Drew, near Bristol.

Q. Did not the Romans come again to Britain?

A. Yes, about the year of our Lord 50, or a hundred years after Julius Cæsar came; and after killing many of the people, they made Britain a part of the Roman empire, just as India has been made part of the British empire in modern times.

Q. How did they treat the Druids?

A. They put them to death, about the year of our Lord 78, by order of the Emperor Nero, infamous for his cruelty. It is said that many fled to Scotland and the i-le of Mona or Man.

Q. Did they do any further injury to the Britons?

A. Yes; they obliged them to pay very heavy taxes; taking away their young men, their cattle, corn, and other property; but on the other hand they taught the Britons many useful things they did not know before.

Q. Then the Romans did some good as well as harm?

A. Yes; they taught the Britons to make roads and bridges, to drain marshy land, to build houses, and plant gardens.

CHAPTER II.

THE ROMANS.

Q. Who were the Romans?

A. They were a bold warlike people living at Rome, in Italy. Their city was built about seven hundred years before the time of Julius Cæsar; at first it was only a group of huts built on a hill and enclosed with walls.

Q. What kind of a city was it about the time they conquered Britain?

A. It was fifty miles in circuit, and contained four millions of inhabitants; it was enriched with marble statues, columns, and obelisks, from Egypt and Greece—with gold, silver, and precious stones,

and all that was costly, gathered from the nations they had conquered in all parts of the world.

Q. What was the religion of the Romans?

A. When they first settled in Britain they worshipped a number of false gods, and built temples to them; but in the course of time, some Roman Christians came and taught the precepts of Jesus, and some of the temples were turned into Christian churches.

Q. Did the Romans try to improve the Britons?

A. Yes, they opened schools in the towns, where British and Roman boys were taught to read. They built market-places and brought money into use in buying and selling, improved the style of clothing and cooking, and thus in various ways, by treating the Britons as friends and equals, did much to soften their rough manners.

Q. Did Britain remain long under the Roman rule?

A. Until the year of our Lord, 420, when the Roman empire had become so weak, that the soldiers were called home, and the Britons were left to take care of themselves.

Q. What happened to the Britons then?

A. After the Romans had left, the Picts and Scots, a fierce people, who lived in the woods and wilds of Scotland, came down and robbed them of their corn, cattle, and children.

Q. What had the Romans done to keep them away?

A. They had built walls, with a row of strong forts, across the country, and placed soldiers to guard them, and thus kept the intruders on the other side.

CHAPTER III.

THE SAXONS AND DANES.

Q. What did the Britons now do to protect themselves from their enemies?

A. They were foolish enough to quarrel among themselves; and instead of helping each other, they invited some Saxons from Germany to help them against the Scots.

Q. How did the Saxons conduct themselves?

A. These daring, hardy men, drove back the Scots, and finding Britain a pleasant country got

many more Saxons over, and settled in Kent, where they soon quarrelled with the Britons, drove them out, and established the Saxon kingdom of Kent.

Q. Did they make any further settlements?

A. Yes, in the course of one hundred and fifty years, various Saxon chiefs took possession of different parts of England. By degrees the natives became very few in number, for they were either killed in the wars, or driven to the mountains of Wales, or to that part of France called Brittany.

Q. Can you tell me what language was spoken by the Saxons?

A. Our own English language, though it has been much altered since then; the ancient British language is now spoken by the Welsh. The language of the Romans was Latin.

Q. What was the religion of the Saxons?

A. It differed from that of the Druids, and from that of the Romans. They worshipped great images of wood or stone, and from these gods or goddesses we derive the names of the days of the week.

Q. How was Christianity again introduced into England?

A. It was brought by some missionaries from Rome, about the year 680. These good men improved the manners of the Saxons or English, and taught them many useful arts.

Q. Can you mention some particulars?

A. Yes, they taught them to write books, and draw and paint in colors; they instructed masons, smiths, and carpenters; they improved agriculture and the rearing of sheep and cattle.

Q. What was the political condition of the people at this time?

A. The Saxon lords had made themselves not only owners of the land, but owners of the people also; they could therefore neither buy nor sell, nor receive wages, nor go a journey, but as their masters chose.

Q. How did the Saxon chiefs divide the country?

A. Seven of them united and agreed to divide England into seven kingdoms. This was called the Saxon Heptarchy. The names of these kingdoms

were Kent, Sussex, Essex, East Anglia, Northumbria, Wessex, and Mercia.

Q. Did this arrangement make the Saxons quiet and contented?

A. No, they had acquired such a love of fighting, that they soon went to war with each other; at length the most successful of these princes, Egbert, king of Wessex, became master of the whole, about the year of our Lord 800.

Q. What name was given to the kingdom?

A. Angle-land, or England, from a numerous Saxon tribe called Angles.

Q. Did England now enjoy peace?

A. No, a great number of Danish pirates overran the country. Often landing at night, they burnt down villages, and carried off whatever came in their way.

Q. Were the Danes at length got rid of?

A. Yes, after many years of conflict they were routed by Alfred the Great.

Q. What noble deeds distinguished this king?

A. He encouraged the education of the people, founded schools of learning at Oxford, made wise and just laws, established trial by jury, made a survey of England, divided it into counties, and built large ships to protect it. He was a poet, and knew several languages. He died in the year 900.

Q. Did the Danes return to England?

A. Yes, nearly one hundred years after Alfred's death they conquered the country, and three Danish Kings sat on the throne in succession.

Q. Did the Saxons regain the throne?

A. Yes, but kept it only during the life-time of Edward the Confessor, (who was a descendant of Alfred,) for at his death, his successor Harold, had no sooner ascended the throne, than William, Duke of Normandy, invaded England with sixty thousand men. Harold and many of the Saxons were killed, and William soon declared himself king.

CHAPTER IV.

THE NORMAN CONQUEST.

Q. What is the invasion of England commonly called.

A. The Norman Conquest, and the king is called William the Conqueror.

Q. How did he behave towards the Saxon or English people?

A. He took their lands from them and gave them to his Norman soldiers; he then had the amount of the land, cattle, and servants of every one entered in a book called Doomsday book.

Q. Did not the people whom he had robbed plot against him?

A. Yes, and to prevent this, he made them put out their fires and candles every evening at eight o'clock, at the ringing of a bell. This was called the curfew bell.

Q. When did William become king, and how long did he reign?

A. He was crowned king of England on the 25th of December, 1066, and reigned 21 years.

Q. What king succeeded him?

A. His second son, William Rufus, or William the Red, so called because he had red hair.

Q. What caused the death of William Rufus?

A. As William Rufus was hunting, on land that his father had laid waste, with a favourite named Walter Tyrrell, whilst they both shot at a stag, an arrow glancing from a tree, struck the king in the breast and killed him.

Q. Who was the next king?

A. The next king was William's brother Henry, who was called Beau-Clerk because of his great learning. He reigned thirty-five years.

Q. Who sat on the throne after Henry I.?

A. Stephen, who reigned eighteen years; but he was considered a usurper, that is, one who reigned without good right, and when he died in 1154, Henry II., grandson of the former Henry, was made king.

Q. Was there anything worthy of notice in the character of Henry II.?

A. Henry took some pains to improve the condition of his people, and conducted the affairs of the kingdom with wisdom and ability. He died in 1189. Ireland became subject to England in this reign.

Q. What improvement marked this period?

A. Glass began to be used for windows, and sur-

names were adopted. The properties of the load-stone were now first known in England.

Q. Who was the next king?

A. Richard I., a son of Henry. He was surnamed the Lion-hearted, because he was a daring warrior and killed a great many people.

Q. Who succeeded Richard?

A. His brother John, who was a very bad man. This king made unjust and tyrannical laws, and was so selfish that the barons or principal people resolved to dethrone him if he did not act more justly.

CHAPTER V.

SIGNING OF MAGNA CHARTA.

Q. How did the barons act?

A. They wrote on a parchment all the laws they wished made or altered, and obliged king John to sign his name to it, by which it became the law of the land. This parchment is called Magna Charta, or the great charter of English liberty.

Q. Where was Magna Charta signed?

A. It was signed at a place called Runnymede, near Windsor, on the 19th of June, 1215.

Q. Who was the next king?

A. Henry III., a son of John. He came to the throne at his father's death, when he was only nine years old. He was a foolish king, and wasted the people's money. He taxed them so heavily that they at last made war against him, and took him prisoner.

Q. What important event did this lead to?

A. The Earl of Leicester sent messages to all the towns and counties, that the most worthy citizens and gentlemen should be sent to a council or parliament, to advise as to what should be done, and to make known the wants and wishes of the people. This was the germ and outline of the present house of Commons.

Q. What useful improvements became known about this time?

A. The mariners' compass was first used by the French; magnifying glasses and the magic lantern were invented by Roger Bacon; and the linen manufacture was first begun in this country.

Q. What wicked system was now first introduced into England?

A. The inquisition, a court for systematic persecution on account of religion, by which any person who dared to differ from the priest, and think for himself, was condemned to be tortured, or tied to a stake and burnt.

Q. Who succeeded Henry III.?

A. His son Edward I. He was a much wiser man than his father, but he was too fond of war and bloodshed. He slew great numbers of the Scotch; robbed fifteen thousand Jews of their property, and drove them out of the kingdom. Wales became subject to England in this reign.

Q. Can you mention anything he did for the good of the people?

A. Yes, he established watchmen, or night police for the prevention of robbery; confirmed the regular meeting of parliament; and appointed upright magistrates in the towns and cities.

Q. What was the condition of the people at this period?

A. The slavery of the feudal system was dying away, and freemen began to increase in country towns, working as carpenters, blacksmiths, and other trades; but there were as yet no shops, so that everything was bought at markets or fairs. The goods were carried on pack horses, for there were no carts or waggons. The roads were very bad, and infested with robbers.

Q. Tell me some of the customs of the times?

A. The nobles lived in castles and halls in a very rough way; their rooms were large and comfortless, their furniture clumsy and rude, their windows without glass, and their floors strewed with rushes and straw. They dined at ten in the morning, when lords, ladies, priests, servants, and travellers, sat at the same table. The supper was at five, and like the dinner; and these were the only regular meals.

Q. What kind of clothing had the people?

A. The clothing of the working classes was made of coarse wool, spun, and woven at home by their wives and daughters,—not like the pretty cottons and stuffs now to be had so cheap. The middle

classes wore coats with leather belts round the waist, tight pantaloons, and cloth caps. The nobility wore satin mantles and velvet caps embroidered with gold and ornamented with jewels.

Q. What was the next king's name?

A. Edward II., a careless, idle man, who often brought himself and his people into trouble during a reign of twenty years. He was murdered in Berkeley castle, by order of his own queen, in the year 1327.

CHAPTER VI.

DAWN OF THE REFORMATION.

Q. Who succeeded Edward II.?

A. His son, Edward III., who was only fifteen years old when he came to the throne. He reigned fifty years. His queen's name was Phillipa, a native of Flanders (now called Belgium).

Q. What can you tell me about this lady?

A. She was a good woman, and did all she could to increase the comforts of the people, and find them work to do. She paid a number of weavers to come from Flanders and teach the English people to make fine woollen cloths and stuffs.

Q. What two great men lived in this reign?

A. One was the celebrated reformer, John Wycliffe, who was always preaching against the errors in religion and the wickedness of the times. The other was Chaucer, the first great poet who wrote in English, and fixed and improved the language.

Q. Who was Edward the Black Prince?

A. He was the eldest son of Edward III. He wore black armour, and is famed as a great warrior. He died before his father.

Q. Who reigned after Edward III.?

A. His grandson, Richard II., son of the Black Prince, who became king in the year 1377, when he was but eleven years old. He was a selfish and extravagant man, and robbed his people. This led on one occasion to a great riot, when thousands of working men went to London to remonstrate with him, headed by Wat Tyler, a blacksmith.

Q. Who was the next king?

A. Henry IV., another grandson of Edward III. and cousin of Richard. His reign was stained by

the usual disturbances, wars, and quarrels, which arose out of the selfishness and folly of the kings and nobles. He died in 1413, at the age of forty-six.

Q. Who became king after Henry IV.?

A. His son, Henry V., who though wild and dissolute when a youth, became afterwards a better king than was expected.

Q. Had Henry V. any son?

A. Yes, Henry VI., who was only twelve months old when his father died. When he grew up he was weak in mind and sickly in body, and his queen and ministers managed the affairs of the country.

Q. What disgraceful contest began in this reign?

A. Richard, Duke of York, and cousin of Henry, claimed the crown of England. This led to dreadful civil wars, which lasted thirty years, to the great injury of the people; they are called the wars of the Roses.

Q. Why are they thus named?

A. Because those who took the side of the House of York wore a white rose, or ribbon roset; and those who sided with the king, or House of Lancaster, wore a red one.

Q. What happened to the Duke of York?

A. He was killed at the battle of Wakefield; but the war was carried on by his son Edward, who at length made king Henry a prisoner, and took possession of the throne as Edward IV.

CHAPTER VII.

INVENTION OF PRINTING.

Q. What important invention was first known in England in the reign of Edward IV.?

A. The art of printing, which had been lately invented in Germany, was brought to England by William Caxton. He set up a printing press in Westminster Abbey, in 1471.

Q. What cruel act stains the reign of Edward IV.?

A. He caused his own brother, the Duke of Clarence, who had been of great service to him, to be drowned in a butt of wine.

Q. Did Edward leave any children?

A. Yes, two sons and four daughters.

Q. What happened on the death of Edward?

A. His eldest son succeeded him as Edward V. being only thirteen years old. The young king was sent with his brother to lodge in the tower of London, under the care of their uncle Richard. One night when the two boys were asleep, some ruffians came and smothered them with a bolster. This crime is charged upon Richard, who was determined to be king.

Q. Did he become king?

A. Yes; but he reigned only two years. He was killed in the battle of Bosworth, in 1485, by Henry, Earl of Richmond, who was at once crowned on the battle field as Henry VII.

Q. How were the wars of the Roses ended?

A. Henry VII., kinsman of the house of Lancaster, married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV., who was of the house of York, and thus brought the unseemly strife to a close by uniting the two houses.

Q. What discoveries were made in this reign?

A. The discovery of the West India Islands by Christopher Columbus, an Italian; and that of the American continent by Sebastian Cabot, a merchant of Bristol.

Q. Mention some other facts of this period?

A. Trade and commerce with foreign nations were extended; Cabot constructed a map of the world, and observed the variations of the compass; charts and maps came into use; Greek and other languages were taught in the schools; and shillings were first coined in England.

Q. Can you state any facts to show that the social condition of the people was progressing?

A. Yes; a new class of men, merchants, and traders, had by this time become rich and influential; the large estates formerly belonging to the king, nobles, and clergy, were now broken into smaller ones; the tenant farmers were no longer villeins, but freemen, who paid rent for their land; the poor workpeople and servants were no longer mere slaves, but received wages, and could go where they pleased.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE REFORMATION.

Q. Who came to the throne on the death of Henry VII.?

A. His son, Henry VIII. He was a bad husband and a tyrant in his family as well as over the nation.

Q. Who were the wives of this king?

A. The first, the good queen Catherine, he sent away, and married Anne Boleyn; but he soon began to dislike her, and had her head cut off; he then married another lady, named Jane Seymour, who died; then Anne of Cleves, whom he disliked, and sent away; then Catherine Howard, who was beheaded; then Catherine Parr, who lived after him.

Q. What great event in connexion with the form of religion took place in this reign?

A. The English Reformation, as it is usually called, was brought about by Henry VIII.

Q. What is meant by the Reformation?

A. Religiously it means the throwing aside of a number of forms and ceremonies not taught by Jesus Christ, but taught and practised by the Church of Rome.

Q. Who was the chief person that attempted to improve the religious aspect of the times?

A. Martin Luther, a German divine, whose zealous efforts for religious liberty in his own country were very successful.

Q. What was the part Henry VIII. took in the Reformation?

A. His part was a political one, and deserved very little praise.

Q. What was his conduct in the matter?

A. He first of all quarrelled with the pope; then he sent soldiers to the abbeys, convents, and priories, of which there were about a thousand, to take possession of their lands, books, plate, jewels, and furniture, all of which were sold, and most of the money he put to his own use; while the unfortunate inmates, consisting of monks, friars, clerks, and nuns, were left to beg or starve.

Q. Were not some of the inmates of these religious houses very corrupt?

A. Yes, there were some who were sunk in error and vice; but there were others more enlightened and devout, who did much to relieve the distresses of the poor, by providing food and clothing for the destitute, and medicine and attendance for the sick.

Q. "What was the church called after this political violence ?

A. The Church of England : with Henry for its head instead of the Pope.

Q. Who became king at the death of Henry VIII.?

A. His son, Edward VI., who was only nine years old. He died in 1553, at the age of sixteen, and was an amiable, learned, and promising youth. He left the crown to his cousin, lady Jane Grey, but she reigned only ten days, and was then beheaded by Mary, Edward's eldest sister.

Q. Did Mary become queen ?

A. Yes, and reigned about five years.

Q. What was the character of Mary ?

A. She was of a proud and cruel disposition ; she was a bigoted Catholic, and caused many Protestants to be burnt to death, among whom were Cranmer, Latimer, Hooper, and Ridley, men of great learning.

CHAPTER IX.

EXTENSION OF TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Q. Who next sat on the English throne ?

A. Elizabeth, a daughter of Henry, and half-sister to Mary and Edward. She reigned forty-five years, and died in 1603.

Q. What was her character ?

A. Her temper was harsh and tyrannical, and she was a religious persecutor. On the other hand she encouraged learning, commerce, and the useful arts; and she chose able ministers to rule the country.

Q. State some of the signs of the progress of the nation at this period ?

A. Manufacturing enterprise had made great advances. Manchester was celebrated for cotton and woollen goods, Birmingham and Sheffield for hardware and cutlery; London and Bristol as great shipping ports. Many kinds of vegetables were introduced, such as the cabbage, lettuce, and potato; this last was brought from America by Sir Walter Raleigh. Hats, clocks, pins, needles, and paper were also manufactured.

Q. What was the Spanish Armada?

A. It was a fleet of one hundred and thirty large ships of war, besides smaller ones, sent by the king of Spain to invade England, intending to make himself king. But the English merchants sent their ships and defended the coast, and then a great storm came and nearly destroyed the Spanish fleet.

Q. You said that the breaking up of the religious houses threw many destitute poor upon the country; what was done to meet that evil?

A. Workhouses were now established, and all householders had to pay a tax called the poor-rate for their support; thus many were rescued from begging and thieving.

Q. Was there not a great advance in the shipping enterprise at this period?

A. Yes, many rich merchants sent vessels to different parts of the world to trade; but many grievous wrongs were committed; for instance, the East India Company being allowed by the natives to build a large warehouse on a slip of land in India, they soon took by violence vast territories around them. Many voyages were made to North America, and that part now called Virginia was unjustly taken from the natives. The horrid slave trade began about this time. Sir Francis Drake made a voyage round the world.

CHAPTER X.

THE STUARTS.

Q. Whom did Elizabeth name as her successor to the throne?

A. Her cousin, James Stuart. He was James VI. of Scotland, and came to the English throne as James I. He thus united the two kingdoms under one Sovereign.

Q. Relate some of the events of this reign?

A. When James had been king about two years a plot was formed to blow up both houses of Parliament with gunpowder, when he and all the greatest men in the country should be assembled.

Q. How was this plot managed?

A. It is said to have been formed by the Roman

Catholic party. A cellar was hired under the house, with the pretence of storing coals. Here were placed thirty-six barrels of gunpowder, and covered with coals and fire-wood.

Q. When was this plot discovered?

A. On November 5th, 1605, the day of the meeting of Parliament, one Guy Fawkes was taken in the cellar, with a dark lantern, tinder-box, etc.

Q. What led to this discovery?

A. A letter having been sent to Lord Monteagle from some person unknown, a watch was set, and the plot was found out.

Q. Was James I. a just king?

A. By no means; for he thought a king could do as he pleased; and when he wanted money he put on taxes without asking parliament, and he taught his son Charles to be of the same opinion.

Q. Did not James cause the present version of the Bible to be printed?

A. Yes, he did; but he was a persecutor of many good men who loved the Bible; and hundreds of them went to America, where they laid the foundation of that great empire, the United States.

Q. Who was Charles I.?

A. He was a son of James and succeeded his father in 1625.

Q. What caused the disturbances of his reign?

A. He tried to put enormous taxes on the people, but was resisted by Parliament. He therefore dissolved it, and that led to the dreadful civil war which followed.

Q. Who were the Puritans?

A. They were the religious people of that time; they wished the church to be further purified from what they considered the corruptions of the Church of Rome, and they took an active part in the struggle against Charles I.

Q. How did the struggle end?

A. The king was taken prisoner and condemned to die for breaking the laws. He was beheaded at Whitehall, January 30th, 1649.

Q. What improvements mark this reign?

A. Barometers or weather-glasses were invented also, thermometers, for measuring degrees of heat.

Newspapers were now regularly published. The circulation of the blood was discovered by Harvey.

CHAPTER XI.

THE COMMONWEALTH AND RESTORATION.

Q. What happened after the reign of Charles I.;

A. Oliver Cromwell was chosen Protector or ruler of England, which office he filled with ability for five years.

Q. Was Cromwell a good ruler?

A. Yes, one of the best England ever had. He was a just, upright, and sincere man; and a champion of civil and religious liberty.

Q. Who was Oliver Cromwell?

A. He was a country gentleman, who had by his courage and talents, become general of the parliamentary army. He died in 1658, and was succeeded by his son Richard, who retired into private life after being Protector for three months.

Q. What great man was secretary to Cromwell?

A. John Milton, a distinguished puritan, and one of the most eminent writers that has ever lived in England.

Q. Did improvements continue to be made during the commonwealth?

A. Yes, they were very numerous. Banking-houses were established; the General Post-office was re-modelled so as to serve the whole community; coffee and sugar came into common use; India muslin was brought into England, and the trading people were much better off than before, on account of the increase of commerce.

Q. Who was Charles II?

A. The son of Charles I. He was living in Holland when Richard Cromwell resigned; the parliament then resolved to restore him to the throne on certain conditions, which he agreed to. He entered London in great pomp on the 29th of May. This event is called the Restoration.

Q. Did Charles rule the nation well?

A. No, for he was careless and idle, spending whole days and nights in drinking and other debasing pleasures and extravagancies, and gave his people great uneasiness.

Q. What Disaster befel London in this reign?

A. In 1665 a dreadful plague broke out, and a hundred thousand of the inhabitants died. The next year a fire destroyed thirteen thousand houses, with eighty-nine churches and public building.

Q. Who came to the throne after Charles?

A. His brother, James II.; he attempted to restore the Romish faith, and did many things against the laws; so the principal men of the kingdom agreed to take his crown from him, and invited William, Prince of Orange, to the throne. James II. escaped to France, where he died in 1701.

CHAPTER XII.

THE REVOLUTION.

Q. Who was William III.?

A. He was son-in-law to James II., and grandson by his mother's side to Charles I. William and Mary were called to the throne on conditions laid down by an act of Parliament. The event is called the Glorious Revolution.

Q. What was the character of this king and queen?

A. William was a steady friend of civil and religious liberty. Mary was an excellent wife and a truly good woman.

Q. What great names shed lustre on this period?

A. Newton, Locke, Tillotson, Burnett, and Prior.

Q. Who sat on the throne next?

A. Anne, Mary's youngest sister; she is said to have possessed many excellent qualities. Her husband was Prince George of Denmark. She reigned thirteen years, and died in 1714.

Q. Mention the names of the principal literary men of the time?

A. Pope, Swift, Addison, Steele, Prior, Gay, Rowe, and Congreve.

Q. What progress did trade and commerce make in this reign?

A. Large quantities of tea came from China, also porcelain or China ware; silk, cotton, spices, and other useful things came from India. The bank of England was now first established, but at the same time began that national burden called the National Debt, to pay for a foolish war on the continent.

CHAPTER XIII.

HOUSE OF HANOVER.

Q. Who came to the throne after Queen Anne?

A. George Lewis, Elector of Hanover, was proclaimed King, as George I., by the general consent of the nation. He was the nearest Protestant heir to the throne, being a great grandson of James I., by his mother's side. He was a good and wise ruler, and reigned thirteen years.

Q. Who succeeded George I.?

A. His eldest son George II., who reigned thirty-four years.

Q. What was the general character of this reign?

A. Though not entirely free from the curse of war, the arts of peace went on rapidly. Many new manufactories and mills were built; new roads, canals, bridges, and harbours for shipping were made; a large quantity of manufactured goods was sent to foreign countries, and there was plenty of work for those who were industrious.

Q. Who was the next king?

A. George III., grandson of George II., and son of Frederick Prince of Wales, who died ten years before his father.

Q. When did George III. ascend the throne?

A. He was crowned in 1760, at the age of 21.

Q. What caused the American revolution?

A. The attempt of the British government to impose taxes on the American colonies, to help to pay for European wars. The Americans refused to pay the unjust demands, and troops were sent to force them, but this only made them more firm; and after many years' waste of human life and money, the English gave up the contest.

Q. What are those colonies now called?

A. They took the name of the United States when they declared their independence of England, at the close of the war, in 1776.

Q. Were there any other wars in this reign?

A. Yes, the country was plunged in wars with France, which lasted more than twenty-two years, and ended by the battle of Waterloo, in 1815.

Q. Did not these wars add seriously to the national burdens?

A. Yes, the national debt now amounted to eight hundred millions of money, the interest of which amounts to twenty-eight millions every year, which are raised by taxes on industry.

Q. What improvements took place in this reign?

A. The use of gas-lights, the introduction of steam ships, the general spread of Sunday and day schools, the practice of vaccination as a protection against small-pox, the invention of air balloons, numerous discoveries in chemistry, electricity, etc.

Q. When did George III. die?

A. He died in 1820, having reigned sixty years. During several years of the latter part of his life he was bereft of his reason.

Q. Who succeeded George III.?

A. His son, George IV., who had been regent ten years, in consequence of his father's illness. He reigned as king from 1820 to 1830.

Q. What was his character?

A. He was addicted to vicious habits; and his conduct towards his wife, Queen Caroline, was very disgraceful. She died of grief, sharing the sympathy of the whole nation in 1821.

Q. Who succeeded George IV.?

A. His brother, the Duke of Clarence, who assumed the title of William IV. He was generally respected by the people.

Q. Relate some of the events in this reign?

A. The first year, 1830, is memorable for the opening of the first railway, that between Liverpool and Manchester; the year 1832, for the passing of the Reform Bill; and in 1834, all the slaves in the West Indies were bought and set free, at a cost of twenty millions of money to the British people.

Q. What was the Reform Bill?

A. An act of Parliament which increased the influence of the industrious classes over the House of Commons.

Q. Was not this reign a satisfactory one?

A. Yes; the seven years of William's reign were very prosperous; the harvests were good and bread was cheap.

CHAPTER XIV:

REIGN OF VICTORIA.

Q. Who was the successor of William IV.?

A. Her present majesty, Victoria, only child of the Duke of Kent, and grand-daughter of George III. She came to the throne in 1837, at the early age of eighteen. In 1840 she married her cousin, Prince Albert, of Saxe Coburg, who died in the prime of life, in 1861, universally esteemed as a wise and good man. Their family consists of nine children.

Q. What wars has this country been engaged in since the accession of Victoria?

A. The first was the war with China,—a war which morality and justice must ever condemn.

Q. What was the war about?

A. Some British merchants persisted in selling to the Chinese large quantities of opium, contrary to the Chinese law. The Emperor knowing that it injured the people, repeatedly warned them, but without effect; he at length ordered some ships laden with the poison to be burnt, and refused to pay the owners for the damage.

Q. Was this well-deserved loss submitted to?

A. It was not. English soldiers were sent there, and after three years of cruel warfare, the Emperor agreed to give the British government two millions of pounds' worth of silver, and the island of Hong Kong, as a compensation. Other wars have been carried on in India, with little better reason than that in China.

Q. How did the war with Russia take its rise?

A. The Emperor of Russia had demanded that the Sultan of the Turks should grant more favor to those inhabitants of Turkey that were of the same religion as the Russians, namely of the Greek Church; and on the Sultan's refusal, large fleets and armies were got ready to compel him to submit.

Q. What then occurred?

A. The English and French, fearing that if the Russians succeeded it would lessen their power in the East, helped the Turks, and several great battles were fought, cities and towns were destroyed, and a fearful loss of life was suffered on both sides. After

the war had lasted for two years, it was agreed that the dispute should be settled by a congress of statesmen, which met at Paris in the year 1856.

Q. What great event occurred in India, in the year following?

A. The rebellion of the Sepoys or native soldiers of the British territory of Bengal. They had the belief that their English commanders intended to force them to give up their religion, and to take away all power from the native princes of India; so they rose suddenly in various cities and towns, and put to death their British officers, and afterwards cruelly killed many of their wives and children.

Q. What followed?

A. The Sepoys were in a short time beaten by the soldiers sent from England, and several thousands of them were put to the sword or hanged by the English.

Q. How has the nation progressed in this reign?

A. It has been marked by many interesting events. Our island has been girt from one end to the other with railways; steam ships have been sent to all parts of the world; the penny-postage plan has been adopted; the electric telegraph, by which messages may be sent hundreds of miles in a second of time, has been brought into use; unwise laws, by which commerce was fettered and food made dear, have been abolished; to this may be added the discovery of extensive gold districts in Australia and America.

Q. Mention some other particulars?

A. Many thousands of well-conducted people and many Christian missionaries have gone out to various parts of the world; taking with them our English literature and the various blessings to which civilization and freedom give rise; and notwithstanding wars and conflicts, various events give promise of a glorious future, and shed lustre on the reign of Victoria. Long may she live!

SOVEREIGNS OF ENGLAND.

Names.		Reigned.	
		From	To
<i>Norman Line,</i>			
William the Conqueror	...	1066	1087
William Rufus	...	1087	1100
Henry I	...	1100	1135
Stephen	...	1135	1154
<i>Plantagenet Line,</i>			
Henry II	...	1154	1189
Richard I	...	1189	1199
John	...	1199	1216
Henry III	...	1216	1272
Edward I	...	1272	1307
Edward II	...	1307	1327
Edward III	...	1327	1377
Richard II	...	1377	1399
<i>Line of Lancaster,</i>			
Henry IV	...	1399	1413
Henry V	...	1413	1422
Henry VI	...	1422	1461
<i>Line of York,</i>			
Edward IV	...	1461	1483
Edward V	...	1483	1483
Richard III	...	1483	1485
<i>Tudor Line,</i>			
Henry VII	...	1485	1509
Henry VIII	...	1509	1547
Edward VI	...	1547	1553
Mary	...	1553	1558
Elizabeth	...	1558	1603
<i>Stuart Line,</i>			
James I	...	1603	1625
Charles I	...	1625	1649
(Commonwealth—Cromwell		1649	1660)
Charles II	...	1660	1685
James II	...	1685	1688
William III	...	1689	1702
Anne	...	1702	1714
<i>Brunswick Line,</i>			
George I	...	1714	1727
George II	...	1727	1760
George III	...	1760	1820
George IV	...	1820	1830
William IV	...	1830	1837
Victoria I	...	1837	1901

Edward VII

1901

1910

George V

1910

1936

Edward VIII

Jan 1936

1936 Dec

George VI

1936



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